

MINUTES – JULY 30, 1998

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

On Thursday, the 30th day of July 1998, the Commissioners' Court convened the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 2:17 PM in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, Austin, Texas. Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Robert Resnick.

The Commissioners' Court adjourned the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 4:50 PM.

Clerk's Note: The Commissioners' Court record notes that Precinct 3 Commissioner Margaret Moore and Precinct 4 Commissioner Margaret Gómez were not present during this Planning and Budget Process Voting Session.

1. CONSIDER AND ACT ON PLANNING ISSUES AS PART OF THE FY 1999 PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS. (2:17 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, Justice and Public Safety (JPS).

A. TRAVIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES. (2:17 PM)

STARFLIGHT (2:18 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Chris Callsen, Director, Travis County Department of Emergency Services (TCDES); and Dr. Ed Racht, Medical Director, Austin-Travis County EMS.

Motion by Judge Aleshire and seconded by Commissioner McKee that the Court provide in the Budget for the direct employment of flight nurses. Considering the budget level for that, it gives some flexibility as to whether or not there ought to be all flight nurses, all paramedics, or some combination of the two, because there would be ample budget to make those choices later on. And to hold on the question a bit more, pending some additional discussions with Seton Hospital as to what rate changes to consider for them, this Motion would not change the Revenue Estimate. It would postpone the issue of whether or not to change the fees the County would charge Brackenridge Hospital for Starflight.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	absent
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	absent

LAW ENFORCEMENT MISSION FOR STARFLIGHT (2:40 PM) (2:46 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Chris Callsen, Director, TCDES; Dr. Ed Racht, Medical Director, Austin-Travis County EMS; Major Terry Pickering, Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO); and Karen Shafer Castro, Senior Planning and Budget Analyst, Planning and Budget Office (PBO).

Motion by Judge Aleshire and seconded by Commissioner Sonleitner to ask EMS to allocate, in a separate program, money for the law enforcement use of Starflight, and to continue the current practice, for the time being, which is still regulated by EMS in order to be able to monitor the costs. The Court further requested monthly reports on time used, costs, and applications of the law enforcement use of Starflight.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	absent
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	absent

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS (3:04PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Chris Callsen, Director, TCDES; Dr. Ed Racht, Medical Director, Austin-Travis County EMS; Karen Shafer Castro, Senior Planning and Budget Analyst, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner McKee **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to proceed to the Budget Process with the numbers that are proposed in the EMS FY 1999 Implementation Plan and FY 1999 Personnel numbers, including the purchase of 8 (eight) new ambulances, 10 additional personnel, moving toward 7 (seven) new operational locations by the end of the year. Ambulance and other Capital costs would come out of General Fund as opposed to CO's, and that PBO would have permission to go 1 (one) cent above the official effective tax rate.

Maker and Second accept the Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire to request that Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS, Chris Callsen, Director, TCDES, and Dr. Ed Racht, Medical Director, Austin-Travis County EMS, officially request, on behalf of Travis County, the accounting needed for the current year's activity on which the charges would be based for next year to Austin under the current contract. And when they submit that written request to Austin EMS, they copy all the members of the Austin City Council by name and all the members of the Travis County Commissioners' Court by name with that request, and explain in that request the need for that information to be provided no later than August 15, 1998, so that there will be time to process it with the Auditor and the Budget Office, before the scheduled August 20, 1998 vote on the draft budget.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner McKee **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	absent
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	absent

B. PBO. (4:17 PM)

UPDATED CAPITAL MATERIALS (4:17PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Karen Shafer Castro, Senior Planning and Budget Analyst, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

ITEM 1B CONTINUED

SCHEDULE OF DEBT SERVICE (4:46PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Karen Shafer Castro, Senior Planning and Budget Analyst, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

ADVERTISING BOND SALE (4:48PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Karen Shafer Castro, Senior Planning and Budget Analyst, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner McKee **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to adjourn the Planning and Budget Process Voting Session. (4:50 PM)

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire - yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee - yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner - yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore - absent
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez - absent

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Date of Approval

Bill Aleshire, Travis County Judge